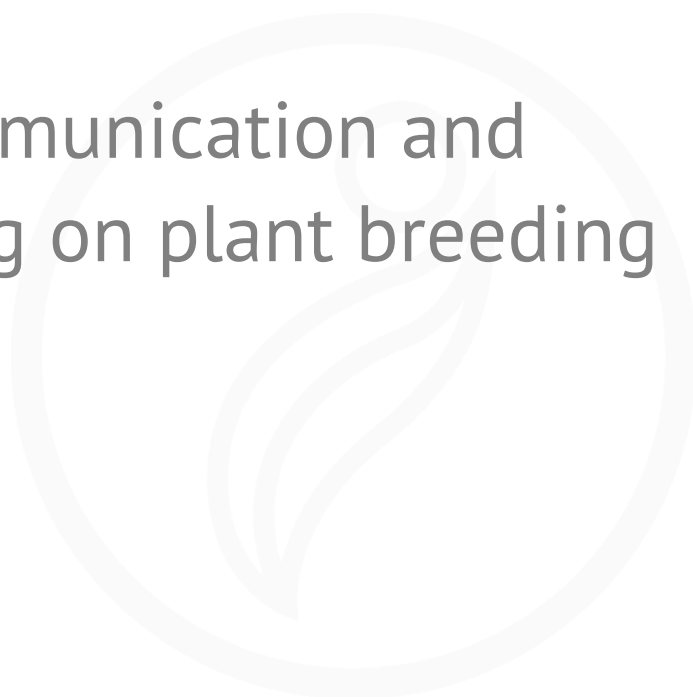


Guidelines for communication and information sharing on plant breeding innovation

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PREPARED BY THE
International Seed Federation



These guidelines serve to assist the seed sector within the agricultural value chain as individual companies bring to market products derived from plant breeding innovation. In doing so, the seed sector wants to enable continued innovation within a developing and evolving policy environment, while seeking policy alignment across countries and minimising impacts on trade.

We recognise that promoting acceptance of plant breeding innovations requires a broad stakeholder effort to engage diverse audiences, including international and national policymakers and consumers. ISF and its members will continue to support a constructive dialogue around the evolving story of plant breeding and how it contributes to a safe, nutritious and diverse food and feed supply.

The entire agricultural value chain is encouraged to share this information and engage with stakeholders and consumers about plant breeding innovation. This guide is in no way intended to limit or minimise the role of other stakeholders within the value chain to adopt practices and seek policies to facilitate innovation that contribute to a safe, nutritious, sustainable, and diverse food and feed supply.

OBJECTIVE

The International Seed Federation (ISF) and its members proactively engage in dialogue about plant breeding innovation with:

- The agricultural value chain, including farmers, growers, the grain trade and the fresh produce, food and feed sectors.
- Consumers and society at large.
- Government legislatures and agencies.
- Policy makers and international organisations.
- Researchers in government and academia.

GOALS

- To promote and support innovation in global agricultural supply chains.
- To facilitate introduction of innovative new seed products and policy alignment to support broad market access.
- To improve dialogue across stakeholders and with consumers.

PROACTIVE SECTOR-WIDE ENGAGEMENT AND DIALOGUE

The seed sector has a long history of producing increasingly healthy, useful, safe and sustainable plant varieties and seeds. Proactive, structured and transparent engagement and dialogue is an opportunity to deliver accurate and up to date information on plant breeding innovation and the resulting products, including the following.

- How current methods will likely be utilised in breeding and research programs to deliver potential near-term plant improvement targets such as improved nutritional value, disease resistance, drought tolerance and industrial uses.
- Refinements of existing breeding methods and new methods on the horizon.
- The crops being improved using these methods.
- Most current international policy/regulatory situation.

SPECIFIC ROLE FOR INTERNATIONAL SEED FEDERATION

ISF will undertake the following actions.

- In collaboration with value chain stakeholders, ISF will:
 - identify countries/regions with implemented policies/regulations that have the potential to impact introduction of innovation and policy alignment and affect trade in seed and commodities, and
 - develop and maintain an overview of relevant regulatory progress in these markets.
- ISF will work with its members to provide:¹
 - information on the commercial pipeline
 - information on identity preservation where applicable
 - special marketing requirements when relevant.
- ISF will initiate and maintain dialogues with value chain stakeholders regarding information needs.

¹ These guidelines were developed to encourage communication and information sharing about plant breeding innovation. However, ISF cannot compel members to follow any prescriptive guidance.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SEED COMPANIES

Companies using the latest plant breeding methods are encouraged to communicate and share information about plant breeding innovation with stakeholders in the value chain prior to commercialisation by:

- developing and implementing stakeholder engagement plans at an early stage for the specific crop
- sharing information about the global regulatory status of specific products with the value chain.

Companies are encouraged to include the following in their stakeholder engagement plans.

- Training staff to engage effectively in value chain dialogues.
- Implementing process management systems to support satisfying certain marketing requirements and regulatory conditions, or the value capture of identity preserved products.

Irrespective of the breeding method used, individual seed companies are also encouraged to share information on commercial products with their customers and third parties according to their business, marketing and commercialisation plans while respecting confidential business information.